

Mogote North

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

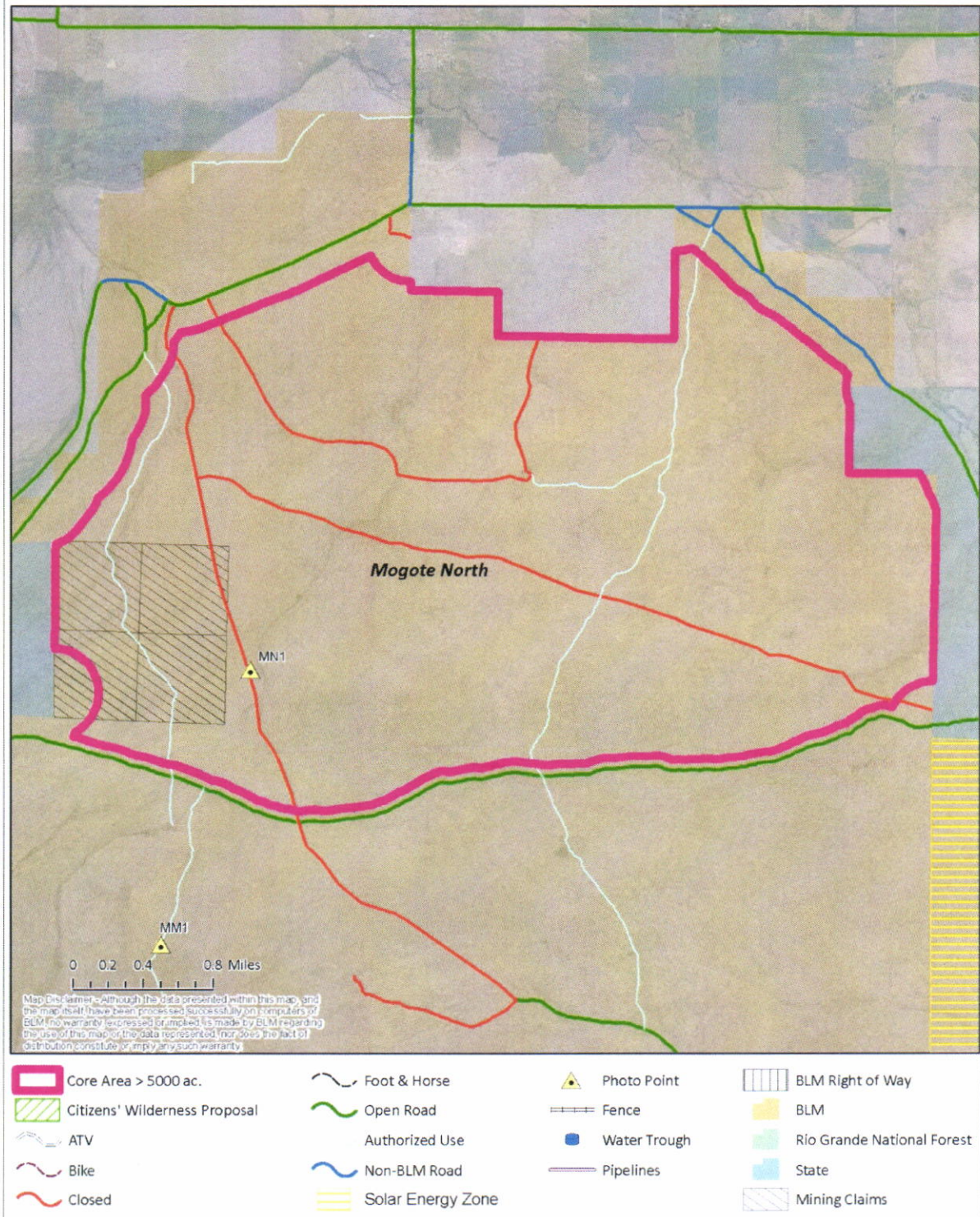


Figure 7 – Mogote North

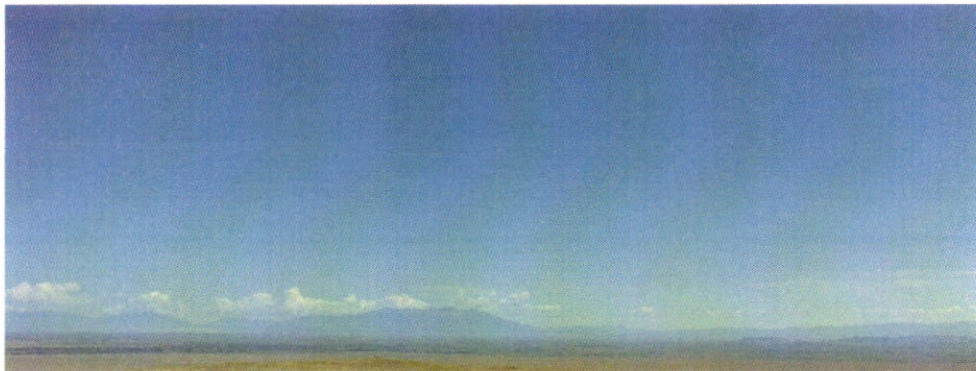
MOGOTE NORTH

Photo Point MNI – From W Looking NW Toward Blanca Peak

**Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings
from Previous Inventory on Record**

(I) Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ☒ **X** (Go to Form 2) **Yes** _____ (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

Form 2 - Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: Mogote North

Acreage: 7,563

(I) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below)

Yes ☒ No ☐

Description (describe the boundaries of the area – wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

The Mogote North inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands south of the community of Capulin in a landscape-level area generally referred to as 'Los Mogotes.' It is bordered on the north and west by private lands, BLM system road 5055 and a portion of a section of State land, on the north and east by Conejos County Road 12 and a parcel of State land, and on the south by BLM system road 5059. There is one active grazing lease and 4 mining claims in the Mogote North Unit.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Note: If "No" is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

At its northernmost tip, the Mogote North unit is located about one mile south of the town of Capulin, which is located at the junction of Conejos County Road 8 and Colorado Highway 15 in Conejos County, CO. Mogote North is generally surrounded on all sides except the south by private lands that have mostly been developed for irrigated agriculture. Home sites are also scattered throughout the adjacent area. Access to the Mogotes is readily available via three county roads from nearby U.S. Highway 285 and subsequent BLM open system roads.

The terrain throughout the Mogotes is essentially uniform, open, relatively flat and lacks topographic and vegetative variation (see photos). Lands within the Mogotes are classified primarily as Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe. Additional cover types within the Mogotes include Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Grassland, Inter-Mountain Basins Mixed Salt Desert Scrub, and Inter-Mountain Basins Greasewood Flat.

The principal human activities and imprints of man within the Mogotes include livestock grazing and related facilities, such as water improvements and fences. Local area residents also utilize the area recreationally for such purposes as OHV and backcountry driving, hunting and horseback riding. A number of illegal trash dumps exist primarily along the northern part of the area, related to the proximity of the town of Capulin and its outliers. Several ways exist throughout the area, but are considered minor imprints of man due to their generally low visibility throughout the broader landscape.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Because of the rural nature of this part of the San Luis Valley, with small populations of year-round residents and typically low itinerant visitation (combined with a large, naturally appearing landscape) opportunities for solitude do exist within the Mogote North area, however, they cannot be considered 'outstanding.' With the area's low topographic relief, lack of vegetation suitable for screening, open terrain, and easy vehicular access throughout the area, *outstanding* opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐No ☒N/A ☐

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The primary recreational use throughout the Mogotes is by motorized vehicle. Primary activities include driving for pleasure and hunting. There are no trails, and no recreational facilities in the area. All use is self-directed and requires few backcountry skills. Similar to 'solitude', opportunities exist for primitive and unconfined recreation, however, they cannot be considered 'outstanding.'

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value)?

Yes ☐No ☐N/A ☒**Description:****SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS***

Area Unique Identifier: Mogote North

Results of analysis:

Of the 7,563 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Mogotes are characterized by open, uniform terrain that lacks topographic and vegetative diversity or relief, and does not offer visitors any screening from other visitors in an area used primarily for recreational motorized vehicle use and livestock grazing.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

☒ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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3 July 2012

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.**